

50% of the proceeds. The trees thus sold are all cut down. After clearcutting, the area is left to natural reseeding. About twenty years hence, the clearing will again be sufficiently forested to permit repetition of the same procedure. This follows an established Japanese pre-war practice. This was known as the five year period share (gonenkanbun). The forest is divided into subdivisions, each 110 cho in area. (A cho is 2.45 acres). These 110 cho plots are in turn subdivided into five parcels of twenty-two cho each. Each year one of these five subdivisions may be cleared.

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[804]

Throughout the forest, divided up into these plots, there may be a five year cycle of cutting, but not all the plots are available every year. If this were so, the forest could be cut over in five years. The system is planned so that there will always be parcels being cleared, those in various stages of regrowth, and mature stands. During and after the war, this practice broke down in favor of uncontrolled cutting.

If a family has little cash, a villager may pay his taxes in part by cutting wood. The village office pays Y1 for a bundle of firewood (late 1951), Y2 going to the villager as a cash payment, and Y2 being applied to his taxes for the year.

[651]

The farmer makes frequent excursions to the mountains to obtain firewood or poles to make improvements in the compound, such as repairing a tool or food shed. Men do this work, especially when the distances are far, but the participation of women is by no means exceptional. Along the roads of northern Okinawa, one can frequently see old women walking down from the mountains carrying bundles of firewood on heavy poles. Much of the wood is hand carried from the mountains; if the farmer has a horse and cart or a truck, the wood is carried to a convenient road for loading and transport.

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[887]

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Charcoal is manufactured in the forest area. In Okinawa charcoal has many uses, mainly for heating and cooking, and for charcoal sticks (senko). Lumps of charcoal are placed in braziers and the sticks are used as touchwood in place of matches and in ceremonial and religious observances. Charcoal containers (tangu) are often constructed on the spot. These are round or box-shaped and made out of the dwarf bamboo.

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Charcoal kilns are privately owned. They are of the simplest sort. The kiln may be covered with a rude housing, built up by poles and a thatch roof. A mound of large boulders and dirt is built with an opening on the dirt floor running the length of the firing area. Poles which have been stripped and cut in various lengths, from five to nine feet, are shoved in the opening and moved forward as they burn. The smoke comes out the back.

Forest maintenance and improvement is, in part, a result of community endeavor. With some exceptions, each person in the village from 16 to 60 participates one day a year in forest improvement (shrin). The participants are boys past school age, unmarried girls, and all men up to the age of 60. These people work without personal remuneration.

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[476]

The usual meaning of shrin is afforestation or reforestation. In Matsuda it is used in the sense of care and improvement of the forest.

### 313 Home Industries and Famous Products

- 314 The forested northern mountains give rise  
433 to small scale lumbering, charcoal making,  
and firewood gathering. Kunigami-son and Kushi-son emphasize the gathering of  
bamboo and firewood. On the other hand the making of charcoal is more important  
[369] in Nago, Haneji, and Ōgimi. The urbanization of the south combined with  
[491] the postwar extension of roads into formerly inaccessible parts of the north  
have accelerated exploitation of the northern forest resource. Particularly  
heavy is the demand for long roof poles, or kichigwā, after every major typhoon.  
[237] Kunigami-son and Higashi supply the bulk of these. Where wood is plentiful  
behind a coastal road, one often finds lime kilns, which process the coral of  
the reefs.

- 258 The sea is also a major source of material for home industries. Sea  
433 salt is made at Yagaji, Urasoe and Oroku on the west coast, at Henza and Awase  
[237] on the east. Kunigami-son prides itself upon its production of seaweed. But-  
tons from seashells are made in Nawashi. Fish cakes ('kamaboko') are made in  
quantity in Itoman and Naha, with lesser amounts being produced in Ishikawa and  
Nago. Dried bonito ('katsucoboshi') is a specialty of Tonaki isle to the west.  
Motobu-chō holds second place, followed by the western isles of Tokashiki and  
505 Zamami. For over a hundred years the small cargo sailboats ('Yambaru-sen')  
178 of the east coast have carried forest products from the north. The extension  
of roads into the northern forests has greatly reduced the amount now carried  
by sea.

- 433 Horse breeding is a specialty in Nakazato (the eastern half of Kume-  
[232] shima), which has 22% of the gunto's production of horses. However, the pro-  
[243] duction of horse and cattle hides is concentrated in the urban areas, which  
account for 84% of the hides produced. Nakazato is also famous for production  
[241] of silk cocoons, being responsible for about two-fifths (38.7%) of the gunto's  
total. The leading mainland producer is Motobu-chō, with 9%.

- Although Okinawa is not self-sufficient in tea, the three areas of  
[245] Gushikawa, Ishikawa and Kunigami produce over half of the local tea. In Oku  
[474] village of Kunigami, the tea factory is a cooperative venture. Gushikawa  
[374] and Chatan pride themselves upon possessing 'sake' and 'avamori' distilleries.  
[244] Nawashi is the center of production of farm tools, and accounts for some  
weaving of banana cloth. Weaving of mats from the "seven isles reed"  
('shichitō-1') is a local specialty of Kanegusuku.

- [314] Travertine quarries are found in Motobu-chō and Katsuren. A sandy  
limestone is quarried at Minatogawa in Gushichan.